

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 079385

13

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:RPGALLAGHER:JKB

APPROVED BY P - MR. SISCO

EUR/WE - CKJOHNSON

EUR/WE - RDVINE

EUR - WSTABLER

S/S - WHLUERS

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R 182213Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T STATE 079385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, IT

SUBJECT: TRIESTE

1. DURING APRIL 17 CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY SISCO, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ORTONA ASSERTED YUGOSLAVS ERECTED SIGNS IN ZONE B TO FOMENT CRISIS, PROBABLY FOR DOMESTIC REASONS. HE SAID ROME CONCERNED ISSUE MIGHT CAUSE INSTINCTIVE REACTIONS AMONG VARIOUS, ESPECIALLY RIGHTIST, ELEMENTS IN ITALIAN POLITICS AND THAT ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS QUO IN FAVOR OF BELGRADE COULD ELICIT AN UNCOMFORTABLE RESPONSE FROM THE ITALIAN PUBLIC.

2. SISCO EMPHASIZED US HAS AVOIDED TAKING A POSITION ON THE DELICATE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY. THE JOINT MANEUVERS IN THE NORTHERN ADRIATIC WERE CONTINUED, HE NOTED, ON THE BASIS OF LONG-APPROVED PLANS. SISCO AFFIRMED OUR DESIRE THAT BOTH SIDES APPROACH THIS ISSUE CALMLY. HE NOTED TITO, IN HIS SARAJEVO SPEECH, STATED IT WAS TIME TO QUIET THE SITUATION AND TALK TO ITALY. SISCO STATED WHEN THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 079385

SECRETARY MET YUGOSLAV FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC IN NEW YORK

ON APRIL 15, HE TOLD THE YUGOSLAV THE US WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DISPUTE, WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE CLAIMS OF EITHER SIDE, AND URGED CALM AND THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. SISCO TOLD ORTONA THE US HOPES ITALY WILL MAINTAIN A CALM AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO THE ISSUE AND EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF BILATERAL TALKS

WITH THE YUGOSLAVS AIMED AT RESTORING THE GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS THAT PREVAILED PRIOR TO JANUARY.

3. ORTONA SAID THAT THROUGHOUT THE DISPUTE ITALY HAS ATTEMPTED TO COOL DOWN THE SITUATION AND CITED THE ITALIAN PRESS DOWNPLAYING THE ISSUE AS AN EXAMPLE. ORTONA AFFIRMED HE WOULD REPORT THE US POSITION TO ROME AND STATED HE WOULD URGE GOI TO ACCEPT OUR VIEWS. ORTONA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE WOULD NOT INFORM YUGOSLAVIA OF ABOVE SUGGESTION SINCE THIS MIGHT STIFFEN YUGOSLAV POSITION. SISCO INDICATED WE HAD NO PRESENT PLANS TO DO SO. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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